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The situation in the Middle East

Security Council
Sixty-ninth year

Identical letters dated 9 January 2014 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I transmit herewith a complaint against Israel, which is waging an electronic war on Lebanon and its information and communication networks (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 35, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Nawaf **Salam**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the identical letters dated 9 January 2014 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Complaint to the Security Council concerning the Israeli electronic war on Lebanon and its information and communication networks

The relevant Lebanese military and technical bodies, namely the Ministry of Communication, the Telecommunications Regulatory Authority and the Lebanese Army, have noticed a marked increase in the number of positions, towers, masts and other devices for monitoring, espionage and surveillance that have been installed along the Lebanese border with occupied Palestine and directed towards Lebanese territory. In view of those developments, specialized units within the competent Lebanese agencies have been monitoring and analysing the activities of the devices. The team found that the Israeli enemy is using them to break into the various Lebanese information and communication networks, such as the mobile telephone, landline and radio networks and the Internet, in addition to spying on information and communication networks used by the Lebanese Army and the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL). The towers and masts enable the Israeli enemy to access communication networks and e-mail accounts belonging to Lebanese public and private institutions, financial and trading companies, banks and foreign embassies in Lebanon, in addition to monitoring the traffic and content of telephone calls, text messages, e-mails and social networking sites. Those acts of aggression amount to an electronic war waged by the Israeli enemy against the Lebanese Republic. They are a growing and urgent threat to the sovereignty and national and economic security of Lebanon.

This recurrent and intensified Israeli aggression constitutes:

- A standing violation of the sovereignty of the Lebanese Republic, international law and norms, and the Charter of the United Nations;
- A constant and flagrant infringement of Security Council resolution 1701 (2006) and a threat to international peace and security;
- A violation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and General Assembly resolution 68/167 on the right to privacy in the digital age, adopted by consensus on 18 December 2013;
- A contravention of articles 1, 6, 38, 42 and 45 of the Constitution of the International Telecommunication Union, and of resolutions 48 (Malaga-Torremolinos, 1973), 74 (Nairobi, 1982), 64 (Nice, 1989), 159 (Antalya, 2006) and 173 (Guadalajara, 2010) of the Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union.

Lebanon's sovereignty has continued to be the target of repeated Israeli attacks. The country's air, land and sea borders have been violated on a daily basis. Advanced espionage, wiretapping and surveillance equipment has been discovered within Lebanese territory. Spy rings have been recruited at sensitive points in the country's information and communication technology sector. Lebanon has documented those acts of aggression in numerous complaints to the United Nations

Secretariat and the Security Council and in periodic reports of the Secretary-General.

As the target of Israel's electronic onslaught, Lebanon calls on the Security Council to assume its responsibility to preserve international peace and security in a highly sensitive region. The Council should bring pressure to bear on Israel to end its intensified electronic war, which targets the sovereignty and economy of Lebanon and the rights and freedoms of its citizens. It should prevail on Israel to remove all masts and espionage and surveillance devices directed towards Lebanese territory, and bring an immediate end to all unlawful acts of piracy, infiltration and sabotage of Lebanese information and communication networks.